

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01350 241747Z
ACTION IO-13

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IO PLEASE PASS GENEVA DCM SORENSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING, MARCH 29-30

REF: GENEVA 0804

1. SUMMARY: MISSION URGES THAT DEPARTMENT BEGIN NOW TO PREPARE FOR CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING AND THAT DECISION AS TO WHO WILL REPRESENT U.S. BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURE (ITF) EXERCISE SEEMS TO BE AT A CROSSROAD. ACTIONS TAKEN THUS FAR WITH REGARD TO WHO AND ILO HAVE BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. WHILE IT IS CERTAIN THAT SECRETARIATS HAVE LISTENED WITH INTEREST TO WHAT WE HAVE SAID, IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE LARGE IMPACT ON CURRENTLY PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR 1978-1979. THE EXTENT OF OUR ABILITY TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON 1980-1981 BUDGETS IS UNKNWON, AND IT IS THIS QUESTION WHICH IS BASIC TO ALL WE WILL BE DOING IN THE FUTURE, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS AT CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING.

3. CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER GG MEMBERS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN VARIOUS STAGES OF PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING, MOSTLY NOT FAR ALONG, AND THEY SEEM TO BE AS SUSCEPTIBLE AS EVER TO U.S. LEADERSHIP. DUE TO INABILITY OF MANY GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING OURS, TO EFFECTIVELY PLUG BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS INTO PROGRAM DECISIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SOME ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT ABILITY OF GG TO REALLY INFLUENCE BUDGETS. HOWEVER, MOST FEEL THAT WITH GOOD PREPARATION AND BY BEGINNING NOW, ITF APPROACH STANDS SOME

CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN REALLY INFLUENCING 1980-1981 BUDGETS.

4. HENCE, ITF APPROACH SEEMS TO BE AT A CRUCIAL STAGE. IT WOULD BE EASY FOR IT TO DIE A QUIET DEATH, BUT WITH SOME INITIATIVE AND HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IT COULD TURN OUT TO BE VERY WORTHWHILE.

5. THEREFORE, WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO BEGIN PREPARATION NOW FOR THE MEETING. WE ARE WORKING WITH U.K. CO-CHAIRMAN TO DEVELOP PAPERS ON CURRENT STATUS OF ITF APPROACH, AND THESE WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES ATTEND MEETING IN ORDER TO GIVE ITF EXERCISE STRONG U.S. ENDORSEMENT AND NEEDED PUSH IN RIGHT DIRECTION, AS WELL AS ACQUAINT HIMSELF FIRSTHAND ON OPERATION OF GG. SWISS AMBASSADOR, AS HOST, HAS ALREADY INVITED HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION TO DINNER DURING CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING ON MARCH 29. CATTO

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